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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

GEORGE RICHARDSON,
CDC #E-17706,

Plaintiff,

VS.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER PARKER;
SGT. E. TELL; LT. R. HENDERSON;
CHIEF DEPUTY WARDEN M. MONTEIRO.

Defendants.

Civil No. 06-2375 JM (JMA)

**ORDER TRANSFERRING CIVIL
ACTION FOR LACK OF PROPER
VENUE TO THE CENTRAL
DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA,
WESTERN DIVISION, PURSUANT TO
28 U.S.C. § 84(c)(2), 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)
AND 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a)**

Plaintiff, a prisoner currently incarcerated at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego, California, has filed a civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff claims that various California State Prison, Los Angeles County (“LAC”) officials violated his right to due process by improperly handling and losing his personal property while he was housed there in October and December 2004. (*See* Compl. at 1-3.)

Plaintiff has not prepaid the \$350 civil filing fee mandated by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a); instead he has filed a Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) [Doc. No. 2].

I. Lack of Proper Venue

Upon initial review of the Complaint, the Court finds that Plaintiff's case lacks proper venue. Venue may be raised by a court sua sponte where the defendant has not yet filed a responsive pleading and the time for doing so has not run. *Costlow v. Weeks*, 790 F.2d 1486, 1488 (9th Cir. 1986). "A civil action wherein jurisdiction is not founded solely on diversity of

1 citizenship may, except as otherwise provided by law, be brought only in (1) a judicial district where
 2 any defendant resides, if all defendants reside in the same State, (2) a judicial district in which a
 3 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of
 4 property that is the subject of the action is situated, or (3) a judicial district in which any defendant
 5 may be found, if there is no district in which the action may otherwise be brought.” 28 U.S.C. §
 6 1391(b); *Costlow*, 790 F.2d at 1488; *Decker Coal Co. v. Commonwealth Edison Co.*, 805 F.2d 834,
 7 842 (9th Cir. 1986). “The district court of a district in which is filed a case laying venue in the
 8 wrong division or district shall dismiss, or if it be in the interests of justice, transfer such case to any
 9 district in or division in which it could have been brought.” 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).

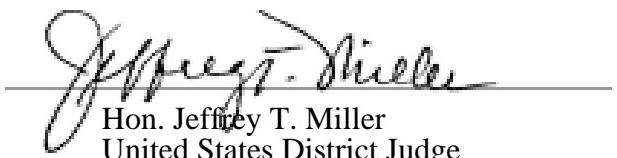
10 Here, Plaintiff claims constitutional violations originally arising out of events which
 11 occurred at California State Prison, Lancaster, which is located in Los Angeles County, not San
 12 Diego or Imperial Counties. Moreover, all Defendants are alleged to reside in Los Angeles County;
 13 none are alleged to reside in San Diego or Imperial Counties. *See* Compl. at 2. Therefore, venue is
 14 proper in the Central District of California, Western Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 84(c)(2), and
 15 not in the Southern District of California. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b); *Costlow*, 790 F.2d at 1488.

16 **II. Conclusion and Order**

17 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Clerk of the Court shall transfer this case
 18 for lack of proper venue, in the interests of justice and for the convenience of all parties, to the docket
 19 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, Western
 20 Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 84(c)(2), 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).¹

21 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

22 DATED: November 7, 2006



Hon. Jeffrey T. Miller
United States District Judge

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 28 ¹ Because the Court finds transfer appropriate, it defers ruling on Plaintiff's Motion to Proceed
In Forma Pauperis [Doc. No. 2] to the Central District of California and expresses no opinion as to
 whether Plaintiff's Complaint alleges facts sufficient to survive the mandatory *sua sponte* screening
 provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) and § 1915A(b).